

To: Weekly Report Group[Weekly_Report_Group@epa.gov]
Cc: Kaplan, Robert[kaplan.robert@epa.gov]
From: Newton, Cheryl
Sent: Thur 11/2/2017 7:51:57 PM
Subject: Region 5 Weekly Update

Good afternoon Administrator, Acting Deputy Administrator, and Chief of Staff – Below please find Region 5's weekly update:

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HOT ISSUES:

Oil Spill Cleanup Continues on South Fork Chicago River (A.K.A. Bubbly Creek) in Chicago, Illinois

Key Message: Region 5 conducting cleanup of oil spill on the South Fork of the Chicago River.

While cleanup is underway, access to Bubbly Creek has been closed off and the creek has been secured with containment boom. The dense oil surrounding the pier at Chicago Park #571 has been removed. EPA will now focus cleanup efforts on the pockets of oil remaining in Bubbly Creek and on the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal (CSSC). EPA's response to the oil spill is expected to continue for at least another week. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with USDA Wildlife Services and EPA to retrieve dead and injured wildlife. The dead wildlife recovered so far include, four turtles, one Canada goose, one seagull and 43 fish.

On October 26, 2017, EPA responded to an approximate 1.5-mile mystery oil spill on the South Fork of the Chicago River, a.k.a. Bubbly Creek, which generally flows to the South Branch of the Chicago River and the CSSC. Oil has been observed at the southernmost extent of Bubbly Creek next to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) facility. The source of the oil sheen is unknown and the MWRD is assisting EPA in the investigation to find a potential source.



EPA contractor power washing rocks at Park 571

Community Concerns about PFAS Contamination of Residential Wells from Wolverine World Wide Tannery Dump Sites in Rockford, Michigan

Key Message: While Wolverine World Wide (WWW) Tannery continues to work under Michigan's Voluntary Cleanup Program to address releases from their Rockford facility, EPA is coordinating with the state to evaluate the contamination.

Region 5 representatives met with the community group on October 17, 2017, to discuss recently discovered PFAS groundwater contamination at various dump sites in the Rockford area. The PFAS contamination has impacted some residential wells at concentrations above the health advisory and is believed to be from WWW waste disposal at the various locations. WWW has been providing alternative drinking water to impacted residents. Subsequent to the October 17,

2017 meeting the Region 5 Superfund removal program was approached by local area health departments, the Michigan Governor's office, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) about potential federal resources being made available to help respond to the site.

In 2012, EPA agreed that MDEQ could address contamination from the WWW facility as an "other cleanup authority (OCA)" alternative to the Superfund remedial process. An EPA 2102 Preliminary Assessment determined that the site may be eligible for the Superfund National Priorities List. On November 1, 2017, Region 5 and MDEQ discussed the status of the WWW OCA and their plan to evaluate the dump sites. MDEQ discussed the challenges of the situation, however, maintains interest in keeping the facility as an OCA state-lead site.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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Region 5 Senior Management to Attend Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

Key message: The meeting is a continuation of a 24-year tradition of Region 5 tribal summits, featuring the free exchange of perspectives, information and strategic options.

Region 5 will take part in the third tribal summit of 2017 on November 8-9. This two-day summit will take place on the reservation of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin. The first day will feature an environmental and cultural tour led by the hosts, an elected leader roundtable with Region 5's Acting Regional Administrator, and then a social dinner with all meeting attendees. On the second day, a full agenda will include discussions of the recent NTOC, tribal environmental codes, and recent developments in grants management. HQ's American Indian Environmental Office will attend to provide updates on tribal capacity development. Several Region 5 Division Directors will present programmatic updates, leading to group consideration of issues and opportunities for cooperative action regarding air and water quality, waste management, and cleanup or response actions.

EPA to Participate in Stakeholder Meeting Hosted by Representative Dingell on Gelman Facility Groundwater Contamination

Key Message: EPA will participate in a November 13, 2017 meeting hosted by Representative Debbie Dingell regarding a 1,4 dioxane contaminated groundwater plume that extends from the Gelman facility into Scio and Ann Arbor Townships in Michigan.

The intent of the meeting is to improve communication between the MDEQ and the local community regarding the site. EPA will discuss the exposure risks posed by the contamination and provide an update on EPA's continued role at the site. It is anticipated that Nick Falvo, Special Assistant to Senior Advisor Albert Kelly, will also attend the meeting.

MDEQ is currently overseeing the remediation of the Gelman facility and associated contamination. The Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group, along with Scio and Ann Arbor Townships, petitioned EPA on November 18, 2016 to conduct a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Gelman release. EPA's PA demonstrates that the Gelman facility generates a score above 28.5 under EPA's Hazard Ranking System, making it eligible for further investigation as a potential Superfund National Priorities List site. EPA will accept MDEQ's recommendation that the site be designated as "Other Cleanup Authority" (OCA) – State lead. Notwithstanding the lead agency designation, EPA will keep the RPM engaged with the public and MDEQ for at least the next year. MDEQ has agreed to provide EPA with quarterly status reports covering ongoing issues and remediation activities and include semiannual comprehensive trend analysis of the plume.

UPCOMING MAJOR DECISIONS:

NONE

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PAST WEEK ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS:

EPA Amends Superfund Administrative Order on Consent for Chicago River Area Former Manufactured Gas Plant Sites in Chicago, Illinois

Key Message: On October 27, 2017, EPA agreed to amend a multi-site Superfund Administrative Order on Consent with potentially responsible party (PRP) WEC Energy Group to exclude several sites/areas from the AOC.

Following a careful review of several of the eleven former MGP sites along the Chicago River, EPA decided to remove four sites from the federal Superfund cleanup program and two parcels from a fifth site. One of the sites removed is the south fork of the South Branch of the Chicago

River, also known as Bubbly Creek. EPA's review determined that although the sites may have some contamination, no further Superfund response is needed. Any remaining contamination that merits cleanup at the sites can be addressed more quickly through other cleanup programs. In particular, Bubbly Creek has been identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for potential restoration opportunities. Removal of the site should address concerns previously cited by the Corps as a reason for suspension of their planned ecological restoration study and allow them to move forward with their plans. It is important to note that removal of Bubbly Creek from the AOC will not interfere with the ongoing Bubbly Creek oil spill response or future actions having to do with the spill. The other parcels and sites are likely to be submitted to the state's voluntary cleanup program.

From the mid-1800s to the 1940s, MGPs in Chicago and the surrounding areas heated coal to produce fuel which was used for street lighting, cooking and heating homes. Many MGP sites are polluted with coal tar, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, toluene, arsenic and cyanide.

Region 5 and EPA EJ Director Meet with East Chicago Community Groups

Key message: On October 24-25, Region 5 staff and Matt Tejada met with East Chicago community groups to discuss environmental justice issues facing the community.

The discussion center on environmental issues in East Chicago, including the USS Lead Superfund site, and the greater Northwest Indiana area. The meeting came about after an invitation by one of the community groups, East Chicago Calumet Coalition. In addition, Matt met separately with representatives of the Community Strategy Group and Calumet Lives Matter.